

MUSIC PLATFORM

KEY FACTS

Mission

To inspire children's creativity through music

"...it was a triumph and one hopes it will be remembered in years to come by at least some of the audience as the occasion when they realised how enthralling opera could be."

Il Trovatore opera project 2007, review from The Spectator, by Michael Tanner

Music Platform

In December 2007 Children's Music Workshop (CMW) and English Pocket Opera Company (EPOC) became *Music Platform*. CMW and EPOC share aims and values; EPOC was focused on creating unique and accessible opera education experiences for young people and teachers alike, whilst CMW had a broader musical approach using popular and classical music as the inspiration for its projects.

The Projects 2008/9

Stories That Sing: 12 schools, 26 classes and 780 children enjoyed 308 workshops and 44 performances. *Stories that Sing* takes place, over a year, for 7 to 8 year olds in Tower Hamlets primary schools. The project is designed to inspire children to create their own music theatre, devising scripts, lyrics, drama, dance and songs, leading to performance. They work alongside professional artists who encourage them to give rein to their imaginations, express their ideas and emotions. In Tower Hamlets schools English is an additional language for the majority, in many cases 100% of the children.

Don Giovanni opera project: 10 schools, 20 classes and 600 children, 120 workshops and 11 performances. A partnership with Central St. Martin's and Cochrane Theatre, the project involves in-school workshops preparing the children to participate as a chorus throughout the professional performance. The children then return to school to write scripts inspired by the performance. CMW musicians then help the classes set their songs to music and stage a performance.

Cinderella Opera project:

108 schools, 24,000 children, 240 workshops and 16 performances at the Unicorn and Cochrane theatres. The opera project is a four stop musical journey beginning with a teacher's INSET, followed by an interactive performance in schools outlining opera, in-depth workshops in schools teaching children choruses and actions from the opera and finally the professional performance at a local theatre incorporating the children's performances.

Lyrical Images at the National Portrait Gallery:

20 schools and 700 children to participate in one day workshops and presentations – children create their own song in response to a portrait at the National Portrait gallery

All Change! Year 7 Transition Project at Kelmscott High School: 1 school, 170 children, 20 workshops and 3 performances. Performances devised with Kelmscott students for local primary schools on the theme of transition from primary to secondary schooling.

The Schools

The following two schools are an example of the needs of schools Music Platform works with. Music Platform is based at Pooles Park Primary School, Islington and Music Platform has worked in Brentfield creating an opera with the students as an annual project for the past three years.

Pooles Park Primary

34% Special Educational Needs, 54% receive free school meals, 82% English as another language (EAL) 6 students are statemented

Brentfield Primary

31.1% of whom had special educational needs, 98% have EAL, 63% receive free school meals, Music Platform referred to in OFSTED report as of importance in improving the school's environment.

"The use of outside groups to provide inspirational sessions each week for pupils is a highly effective innovation. During the inspection, pupils' performing arts skills and self-confidence were boosted as they worked with a visiting opera group. Such experiences, combined with a judiciously considered curriculum, underpin pupils' excellent cultural development"

Brentfield Primary OFSTED report November 2007

Funding

Music Platform has no core funding – the forecast turnover for 2007/08 is £550,000 and these funds come from a mixture of grants from trusts and foundations, sponsorship, fees paid by schools and box office. In the year 2007/08 we are on target for every £10 donation to enable a child to participate in an opera project.

The major funders are: Peter Moores Foundation, City of London, Headley Trust, ANDOR Trust, Foyle Foundation, PRS Foundation, D'Oyly Carte Foundation, Junior League of London, Lyn Foundation, Mercers Trust